



# **APPLICATION OF BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES IN CLINICAL DENTISTRY**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....	i
<b>CHAPTER 1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>
	1
<b>CHAPTER 2</b>	<b>SALIVA AS A DIAGNOSTIC AND PROGNOSTIC PARAMETER IN SYSTEMIC DISEASES (5815/17148)</b>
	2.1 Introduction .....
	3
	2.2 Diagnostic Uses of Saliva .....
	4
	2.3 Formation of Saliva .....
	5
	2.4 Functions of Saliva .....
	6
	2.5 Composition of Saliva .....
	8
	2.6 Flow Rate.....
	10
	2.7 Xerostomia .....
	10
	2.8 Bibliography .....
	12
<b>CHAPTER 3</b>	<b>INFRATEMPORAL FOSSA (5910/17150)</b>
	16
	3.1 Boundaries of the Infratemporal Fossa .....
	17
	3.2 Contents .....
	18
	3.3 Clinical Importance .....
	29
	3.4 Bibliography .....
	30
<b>CHAPTER 4</b>	<b>TISSUE SPACES AROUND THE UPPER AND LOWER JAWS (5910/17547)</b>
	31
	4.1 Submental Space .....
	32
	4.2 Submandibular Space .....
	33
	4.3 Sublingual Space .....
	35
	4.4 Buccal Space .....
	36
	4.5 Submasseteric Space .....
	37
	4.6 Parotid Space .....
	37
	4.7 Pterygomandibular Space .....
	38
	4.8 Bibliography .....
	39

<b>CHAPTERS 5</b>	<b>BLOOD VESSELS OF THE HEAD AND NECK</b>	<b>(5910/17549)</b>
	5.1 Description on Common Carotid Artery .....	40
	5.2 Description on External Carotid Artery .....	41
	5.3 Description on Internal Carotid Artery .....	46
	5.4 Description on Venous Drainage of the Head and Neck .....	49
	5.5 Bibliography .....	52
<b>CHAPTERS 6</b>	<b>ORAL CANCER</b>	<b>( 5756/ 17552)</b>
	6.1 Early Detection of Oral Cancer.....	53
	6.2 Squamous Cell Carcinoma .....	56
	6.3 Biopsy .....	58
	6.4 Clinical and Radiographical Features .....	61
	6.5 Bibliography .....	65
<b>CHAPTERS 7</b>	<b>TOOTH MORPHOLOGY IN CLINICAL DENTAL PRACTICE</b>	<b>( 5504/ 17554)</b>
	7.1 Introduction .....	66
	7.2 Mamellons .....	67
	7.3 Perikymata .....	68
	7.4 Lobes .....	69
	7.5 Bibliography .....	73
<hr/>		
LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.....		74
INDEX .....		75

## **CHAPTER 5 *Dr. Htar Htar Aung***

### **Blood Vessels of the Head and Neck**

#### **5.1 Description on Common Carotid Artery**

The right common carotid artery arises at the bifurcation of the brachiocephalic trunk behind the right sternoclavicular joint. The left common carotid artery directly begins from the arch of aorta. Both common carotid arteries ascend within the carotid sheath to the level of superior border of thyroid cartilage (upper border of C4 vertebra) where they divide into external and internal carotid arteries. The terminal portion of the common carotid artery is often dilated into the carotid sinus, which includes the commencement of the internal carotid artery.

#### ***Clinical Importance***

The pulsation of the common carotid artery can be felt by pressing it against the anterior tubercle of the transverse process of C6 vertebra.